NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
June 12, 1998

MOTORCYCLES AT THE MUSEUM

Have you heard the faint rumble of motors in the distance? Been wondering about that cloud of dust rising on the horizon? Found yourself asking: "Could it be ...*motorcycles at the Field Museum?"*

To clear away the smoke and get to the facts, come to the **Impact Meeting: Tuesday, June 16 from 10-11:30 a.m. in Lecture Hall II**. Coordinator **David Foster** of Special Exhibits will present an overview this Fall's big event, *The Art of the Motorcycle*, which originated at New York's Guggenheim Museum and will be opening at the Field on November 7.

Bring your questions and your comments, find out how this exhibition fits into the Field Museum's mission, and learn the answer to the question *"So what is a Velocipede anyway?"*

GETTING AROUND—EASIER THAN IT USED TO BE

Getting around the Museum has always been a challenge for our visitors. To address this issue, the Museum has been working for more than a year on a new wayfinding system with the graphic design firm Naughton & Associates, Inc. The project has involved staff from around the Museum and has been the subject of visitor research. Now this system is finally being put in place. You've probably noticed new directional signs being put up around the Museum and old ones coming down. You might also be wondering what more is being done to fill the information gaps. Read on to learn more about the project and find out what to expect in the weeks ahead.

At the heart of the new wayfinding program is a grid system that allows visitors to locate any place in the Museum using a three-digit designation. The first digit represents the floor name. Museum exhibits and facilities on the ground level are identified by the letter "G," those on the main level are identified with an "M," and those on the upper level by a "U."

The second digit is the hall number. Each exhibit hall carries a number between 1 and 9, with hall number 1 at the extreme south of the building and hall 9 at the far north. Numbers are repeated on the east and west sides of the building and on each floor. The final digit of the location code is simply "E" for exhibits and facilities on the east of the building and "W" for those on the west. Bringing this all together, the three-digit location for the exhibit **What is An Animal?** is M-2W. This means the exhibit is located on the Main Level in hall 2 on the west side of the building. (Continued on next page)

GETTING AROUND continued from page 1

Pick up a copy of the new visitor map/brochure if you want to study this system a bit more. (A Spanish version is on the way.) While you're at it, you'll notice we have developed a new three-dimensional map for the Museum that tested well with visitors. We have also included lots of information about permanent and temporary exhibitions in the brochure. The map/brochure will be reprinted three times a year so we can highlight the special exhibits featured each season. In developing the map, we tried as much as possible to use international symbols and words to identify visitor amenities. Finally, take note that Classrooms 1, 2 and 3 are now Classrooms A, B and C, and Lecture Hall I is identified as A. Montgomery Ward Lecture Hall on directional signs, abbreviated to Ward Lecture Hall on the map.

Also going up around the Museum are directional signs that incorporate the three-digit location designations. Close to 230 of these new signs will be installed when work is completed around mid-June. These signs are placed in predictable locations throughout the Museum to serve as a frequent source of information to visitors. They are also designed to blend in with the overall architecture of the Museum. Here's a brief overview of the other elements of the system:

Central Information Kiosks Four informational kiosks will be located in the center of Stanley Field Hall. These kiosks will include graphic panels with maps, exhibit descriptions, program listings and information about the Museum Campus and the work of Field Museum scientists. The kiosks are scheduled to be installed by this Friday, June 12.

Floor Directories Six floor directories (two per floor) will be located around the Museum. These directories will also include maps, featured exhibit descriptions and program listings. These directories should be in place by early August.

Admissions Kiosks Also by early August, admissions kiosks will be located at each entrance. They will provide information about Museum fees, membership benefits and other activities and events.

Elevators Later this summer, the graphics and buttons on all public elevators will be changed to reflect the new floor names. Informational panels with listings of exhibits and facilities by floor will be located both outside and inside the elevators.

Exterior Signs New signs will be created this summer for the west entrance and loading dock. Exterior signs directing visitors to the accessible entrance should be in place by mid-July. We may also be adding building identifiers at the north and south entrances.

Submitted by **Melissa Hilton**, Museum Affairs

STILL WANT TO LEARN MORE?

If you have questions or just want to learn more about the new wayfinding system, please come to an informational session on Wednesday, June 17 in Classroom A (formerly Classroom 1). Two sessions will be held-one at 8:30 a.m. and a second at 3:30 p.m. I look forward to seeing you there.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

PROGRAM COMMITTEE FOR 16TH INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS MEETS AT THE FIELD

The big event in the botanical community happens every four years when 5,000-8,000 botanists from around the world come together for the International Botanical Congress. The next Congress is set for 1-7 August 1999 in St. Louis. Major goals of the upcoming Congress is to integrate the diverse disciplines covered by botany and the exchange of ideas from scientists from around the world. The Field Museum is closely involved in the organization of the Congress. **Peter Crane** (Academic Affairs) and **Greg Mueller** (Botany) are members of the Steering Committee; Peter is also Chair of the Program Committee, on which Greg also serves. Ten additional members of the committee, including academic vice presidents, directors of herbaria, and departmental chairs from some of the top institutes in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico (Harvard, Missouri Botanical Gardens, Ohio University, New York Botanical Garden, UC Berkeley, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, U. Texas, U. Toronto, Washington University) met with Peter and Greg at Field Museum on May 29 & 30 to finalize the Congress program.

MISHLER LEADS DISCUSSION GROUP

Brent D. Mishler, director of the University and Jepson Herbaria and professor in the Department of Integrative Biology at the University of California at Berkeley, was among a group of distinguished botanists visiting the Museum on the weekend of May 29 as part of an organizational meeting by the Program Committee for the International Botanical Congress to be held in St. Louis next year. Brent arrived early and volunteered to lead what proved to be a lively discussion on Friday to a packed Zoology classroom. The topic of the discussion was "Compartmentalization in the analysis of large data sets: local homology assessments are better than global ones."

Until recently, computational and data limitations kept most phylogenetic estimation problems to small numbers of taxa. However, the availability of computational resources and the influx of large molecular data sets are enabling researchers to tackle increasingly larger problems, and the analysis of large-scale data sets is rapidly becoming a central problem in phylogenetic biology.

Brent Mishler has written several influential papers on the origin of early land plants and has more recently spearheaded the formation of a group whose purpose is to facilitate interaction between distinct research groups working on some aspect of green plant phylogeny.

The discussion on Friday focused on some of the controversial aspects of constraining analyses to well-supported clades (compartments) and estimating the ancestral states for hypothetical taxonomic units (HTUs) and subsequently using these HTUs as single representatives of large clades in global analyses. Preliminary analyses using the

nuclear-encoded small ribosomal subunit gene in green plant analyses are promising, but the verdict is still out. This and other new methods of data analysis will be presented at a special symposium to be held later this month on "Estimating large scale phylogenies: biological, statistical, and computational problems" and sponsored by DIMACS at Princeton University <http://jkim.biology.yale.edu/LSPS.html>. Field Museum representatives that will be attending this symposium are **François Lutzoni** and **Kathleen Pryer** (Botany).

FIRST TIMOTHY PLOWMAN TROPICAL LATIN AMERICAN RESEARCH AWARD RECIPIENT COMPLETES RESIDENCE

César Augusto Marín, Herbario Amazonico Colombiano and Instituto Amazonico de Investigaciones Cientificas (SINCHI), Bogota, Colombia, was the recipient of the 1st annual "Timothy Plowman Latin American Research Award." This award was established as a memorial to **Tim Plowman** and seeks to assist students and young professionals to visit the Field Museum and use our extensive economic botany and systematic collections. Special consideration is given to individuals from Latin America who are focusing their research on ethnobotany or the systematics of economically important plants. Mr. Marín is actively involved with a series of projects documenting the diversity and uses of the plants of the Colombian Amazon. Cesar was in residence at the museum from May 7-June 5. During that time he worked in the collections, and with **Robin Foster** (Botany/ECP), put together the first guide to the potentially useful plants of Guaviare, Colombia (Rene Lopez and Dairon Cardenas, coauthors). Cesar interacted with a number of people in the Botany Department and in ECP and plans for long-term interactions between Field Museum and SINCHI were discussed. Cesar's visit was supported by the Timothy Plowman Memorial Research Fund and the Field Museum Scholarship committee.

DRISKELL AWARDED FELLOWSHIP

Amy Driskell, a University of Chicago graduate student working in the Field Museum's Bird Division, received a prestigious graduate fellowship from the American Association of University Women. Amy is one of only fifty women nationwide to receive this fellowship. The fellowship provides stipend support for a full year while she works on her dissertation entitled, "Systematics, Behavioral, and Morphological Evolution of Honeyeaters (Meliphagidae)."

BIRD DIVISION WELCOMES VISITING SCIENTIST FROM BELGIUM

The Bird Division recently was paid a special visit by **Luc Lens** of the University of Antwerp. Luc is involved in long-term research projects in Belgium and in the Taita Hills region of Kenya. The Taita Hills are adjacent to the Tsavo area where Field Museum staff (**Bruce Patterson, Tom Gnoske, Julian Kerbis**, of Zoology **and Chap Kusimba** of Anthropology) are conducting joint projects with the Kenyan Wildlife Service. Luc's research program is investigating the effects of habitat fragmentation on the biology and genetics of animals and plants. He was in the Museum to sample our

EARLY EDITION: "MUM'S THE WORD"

Recently, The Field Museum was featured on the popular weekly CBS television show, Early Edition. As you may recall, the film crews were at the Museum using our facilities, including the Egypt exhibit, in January. Now is your opportunity to view the show. The Human Resources Department would like to invite you to a **"Brown Bag Lunch."**

"Mum's The Word"
Tuesday, June 16th
Classroom 1
12 noon

Early Edition is based on a man who lives in Chicago and receives the *Chicago Sun-Times* one day early. Therefore, he has the opportunity to change the future. Join us in celebrating The Field Museum's spotlight on a prime-time television show. The episode is approximately 45 minutes long. We look forward to seeing you there!

WELCOME! *Staff who began their employment in May*

Lisa Berry	Stores	Sales Clerk
Melinda Block	Museum Campus	Intern Supervisor
William Bulfer	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep
Laurence Cortez	Security	Security Officer
Michael Crowley	Zoology/Insects	Intern
Kristina Davis	Museum Campus	Intern Supervisor
Mark DeNardo	Education	Secretary
Cheryl Giznik	Museum Campus	Intern Supervisor
Simone Hannah	Stores	Sales Clerk
Melinda Hickman	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep.
Casey Holliday	Geology	Fossil Preparator
Chanell Jones	Stores	Sales Clerk
Ann Kehoe	Geology	Intern
Amanda Kraus	Education	Asst. Flr. Mgr/Butterflies
Bridget O'Shea	Stores	Sales Clerk
Liani Rosa	Stores	Sales Clerk
Nicole Royal	Education	Floor Mngr./Butterflies
Michael Sherman	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep.
Nancy Srivasta	Education	Asst. Flr. Mgr/Butterflies
Peter Verhage	Exhibits Dept.	Exh. Maint./Intern
Mark Widhalm	Photography	Photography Assistant

WELCOME BACK! *Staff who were rehired during May*

Bettina Marshall	Stores	Sales Clerk
Alynna Nielsen	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep.
Scott Smith	Exhibits	Exhibit Preparator
Quentin Washington	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Rep.

CONGRATULATIONS! *Staff who were promoted or changed positions*

	From	To
Bill Ballard	Assistant Curator	Associate Curator/Zoology
Alicia Castro	Sales Clerk/Stores	Plant Preparator/ Botany
Mary Kehoe	Sales Clerk I	Sales Clerk III
Chris Ochoa	Housekeeper	Housekeeping Supervisor
Laurie Sanders	Special Events Coordinator	Group Sales Manager

GOODBYE AND BEST WISHES! *Staff who ended employment*

Jaime Aguilar	Stores	Store Supervisor
Barbara Allen-Lawson	Stores	Assistant Manager
Rosaura Boone	Education	Visitor Prog. Volunt. Coord.
Ataka Cetewayo	Housekeeping	Housekeeper
Charlie Cho	Exhibits	Exhibit Preparator
Shawn Fielding	Millenium Project	Administrative Assistant
20 yrs. Freddie Robinson	Botany	Plant Preparator
Matthew Timms	Exhibits	Asst. Lighting Technician
John Wagner	Education	Subject Matter Specialist
Julie Zander	Millenium Project	Public Relations Coordinator

skins of Taita Hills birds for genetic analyses. He will be comparing genetic diversity in current, highly fragmented, and threatened populations to historical populations as represented in museum collections. Luc also conducted a seminar on his research .

INTERN HONORED DURING AWARD CEREMONY AT UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Deborah Aruguete, intern in Botany with **Greg Mueller** for past last two years, was recognized at the University of Chicago Honors Assembly for winning a National Science Foundation Minority Graduate Fellowship. Deborah worked with Greg and Joe Aldstadt (Argonne National Laboratory) on a project investigating heavy metal uptake in mushrooms across a pollution gradient in the Chicago area. Deborah submitted this work as her Senior Thesis and she, Greg, and Joe, are in the final stages of modifying it for publication. Deborah will be attending graduate school at University of California at Berkeley in their Biochemistry program; most likely working on some question involving siderophores in fungi. Deborah's work was sponsored in part by National Science Foundation Grant DEB-9317449 "Training for Undergraduates in Collection based Analysis of Biological Diversity" awarded to the Field Museum and by a University of Chicago Richter Grant.

LATEST VAN STONE FIELDIANA UNVEILED

The Anthropology Department would like to congratulate **James VanStone**, Curator Emeritus, on his most recent *Fieldiana* publication. This volume, entitled "Mesquakie (Fox) Material Culture: The William Jones and Frederick Starr Collections," joins a long line of his previous *Fieldiana* publications. Congratulations Jim!

PLANT EXHIBIT CASES RELOCATED

Now that the former **Earth Sciences** exhibit hall is being prepared for travelling temporary exhibits--requiring the move of Earth Science exhibits to the east balcony of the second floor, and a new home for the butterfly cases--a number of botany cases have been relocated in our Plants of the World exhibit. These changes have also enabled us reorganize some areas of the exhibit that were disrupted when the hall was reduced in area to make room for **Life Over Time**.

Carefully fashioned over a period of sixty years, the models were specifically intended to communicate the world's plant diversity to our visitors. These beautiful models are one of Field Museum's most distinctive educational resources, with a large number of species represented, world-wide coverage, life-like appearance, inclusion of many economically important plants, and enlargements of unusual structural features.

The cases dealing with plant-collecting and model-making are now part of the entry area at the west end of hall 28 (U2-E). The palm cases have been moved from the balcony into Hall 29 (U-4 E) where they form a related grouping. Cases depicting the colorful tomato and acanth families have been placed in front of the resin and dye exhibits. The

cannonball tree and monkey pot family cases are now located in the south part of Hall 29 (U-2 E). The AIDS research case is at the east end of Hall 28 (U-2 E), not far from medicinal plants. The case that deals with plant classification has been moved up to the third floor along a corridor in the Botany Department. The dried creosote bush will be deaccessioned. All told, these moves will keep our best plant models on public exhibit, while affording space for the butterfly cases at the south end of Hall 29 (U-2 E).

SIBEL KUSIMBA ATTENDS AFRICANIST ARCHAEOLOGISTS MEETING

Sibel Kusimba (Anthropology) presented a paper May 21 at the 14th biennial conference of the Society of Africanist Archaeologists in Syracuse, NY. Sibel's paper, entitled "The Howeison's Poort at Nelson Bay Cave, South Africa", examined 80,000-year old stone tools from a Middle Stone Age site in South Africa curated in the Anthropology Department's collections. The Howeison's Poort stone industry is supposed to represent an advanced technology of complex, hafted tools, and is purported to be evidence of the first early modern humans. However, Sibel examined raw material use and typological patterns through time at Nelson Bay ,and argued that the Howeison's Poort at Nelson Bay Cave may include several different lithic industries, and that several different factors may be responsible for its appearance at South **African sites. Sibel has been provided with invaluable assistance in the research by Trace** Clark (Intern, Anthropology) and **Christine Steininger-Novy** (Intern, Anthropology).

FIELD MUSEUM SUMMER SEMINAR SERIES
Wednesday, June 17 in Lecture Hall 2 at 4:30 p.m.

Bill Burger (Botany) on The real difference between monocots and dicots:
The question of cotyledon homolohy in Angiosperms

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The Chicago Center for Arts Policy: Democratic Vistas Series presents: Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner with "Paul Robeson: Artist, Citizen, Activist—A Legacy for Today?" FREE on Thursday, June 18 at 7:00 p.m. at Columbia College, Getz Theater (62 E. 11th Street). Questions? Call 344-7986 – Submitted by **Fay Levin**.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Project	**Contact Dept.**	**Status**	**Completion date**
Corner Bakery	Aux Serv & FP&O	Demolition/construction	July 2
Bread Exhibit	Exhibits	Design	July 21
North entrance (Bakery)	FP&O	Design	Summer '98
Museum store	Aux Serv & FP&O	Completion	June12
McDonald's renovation	Aux Serv & FP&O	Design/review	Summer '98
Washroom renovation	Aux Serv & FP&O	Construction	June12
South entrance	FP&O	remove bronze door	July 28
South entrance	FP&O	construction	September '98

KAFFEEKLATSCH SUGGESTION

On our June 3 meeting in Kaffeeklatsch, we had a suggestion about putting new items in our main store such as: aspirin, diapers, pantyhose, etc. Because of certain concerns, we are still looking into the idea. However, you can now find aspirin outside our Security console area. The price is $ .75 for two aspirins. Also, think about the possibility of having your own departmental emergency kit with items that may relate to your departments' special needs. Questions? Call **Marilyn Martinson** (x524).

Editor's Note: A vacation at last! I will be on vacation beginning Thursday, June 18 and returning to the Museum on Monday, June 29. I will observe strictly the deadline of Tuesday, June 16 at noon for submissions for the Friday, June 19 issue—no exceptions. The *Natural News* will not be published on Friday, June 26 unless there are urgent, time-valued notices. Such material should be taken to **Marilyn Martinson** in Human Resources. Thanks! **--Carolyn Klyce**

In celebration of Downtown Thursday Nights,
a joint project of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce,
The Field Museum will be open to the public on Thursday evenings,
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.,
from June 18 - August 27 (except July 23rd).

GENERAL ADMISSION WILL BE FREE!

This will provide a chance for people to come and see what's new this summer at the Museum and enjoy the beautiful new Museum Campus Chicago in the evening.

FIELD MUSEUM TEAM
DISCOVER YOUR CAMPUS!

The Adler Planetarium will
Host the final week of discovery
Monday June 15 - Friday June 19
Their new sky show,
"Clouds of Fire: the Origin of Stars"
Will be shown daily at 11, 2, and 4
(On Friday at 6 and 8 too)
We encourage all staff to learn
About ***OUR*** Campus.
Please call Annie Crawley X378 with
Any questions.

FIELD MUSEUM FAN MAIL

John McCarter received the following letter from former Field staffer **Sarah Highstone:**

… How the Museum has changed for the best! First, I was very impressed with the Museum store located at the south entrance … it was accessible without entering the Museum and … there was an excellent selection of new merchandise to choose from—and all corresponding to the top visitor draws like the lions of Tsavo and Sue, the Tyrannosaurus rex … As always, the visitor service staff was friendly and helpful … I thought the **Living Together** exhibit was very interesting. I took my time looking at the shoes and T-shirts and reading the placards. It was neat to see an exhibit come full circle … I also spent time enjoying the **Living Colors** exhibit. What a wonderful summer exhibition! The butterflies were playful and beautiful. I had a wonderfully long conversation with an exhibit volunteer. The young woman was very knowledgeable … again, great exhibit merchandise. Hats off to you and all the Museum staff! I really admire (and as a visitor appreciate) the improvements you have made to the Museum.

P.S. The Museum web site looks fantastic. I have the site bookmarked so I can frequently visit and enjoy the Museum's exhibits, photographs and general information while in Phoenix.